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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,

THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES

BRIEFING

EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

CIA official: US losing war against terror - Aksam

Istanbul 'closed' for NATO Summit - Vatan

Papadopoulos promises not to block Turkey's EU negotiations

- Milliyet

Talabani sees no reason for tension in Kirkuk - Aksam

Osman Ocalan criticizes PKK for ending cease-fire - Hurriyet

Afghan troops decapitate four Taliban - Milliyet

Chechen fighters catch Russian army off-guard - Milliyet

OPINION MAKERS

Bush wants all of Turkey - Cumhuriyet

Turkey expects Cyprus gesture from Bush - Yeni Safak

Northern Iraqi Kurds preparing for June 30 - Cumhuriyet

Turkmen: An ethnic federation will divide Iraq - Yeni Safak

Abu Ghraib 'rehearsal' made in Guantanamo - Zaman

Iran to release British captives - Zaman

Tehran cuts British captive crisis short - Radikal

Zarkawi threatens Allawi - Radikal

Iraq furor in South Korea - Radikal

BRIEFING

President Bush's upcoming Turkey visit: President Bush will give Turks a 'comprehensive' list of demands during his stay in Ankara June 26- 27 says "Cumhuriyet." US wants to set up a base in Thrace, two naval bases in Samsun and Trabzon, and one in Iskenderun; wants to deploy 18,000 troops at six logistical stations alongside the Mardin-Batman route in southeast Turkey; and wants unfettered passage rights through the Straits, "Cumhuriyet" claims. The paper speculates that US wants to set itself up 'permanently' in Turkey, and wants the work done through bilateral agreements. Ankara expects Bush to announce palpable US measures in support of the Turkish Cypriots, writes "Milliyet." Turkey's hopes with regard to a US military operation to remove the PKK presence in northern Iraq have diminished, and Ankara regards Cyprus as the remaining issue in which progress is considered possible from a bilateral point of view, according to "Milliyet." "Cumhuriyet" quotes an unidentified Turkish diplomat as holding the US, the occupier of Iraq, responsible for leaving the PKK problem unresolved.

Talabani meets PM Erdogan: Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan (PUK) leader Jalal Talabani said after a meeting with PM Erdogan yesterday that the Kurds respected Turkey's sensitivity with regard to regional terrorism and the Turkmen in northern Iraq. Kirkuk can be a city where Arabs, Kurds and the Turkmen live together in peace, Talabani stressed. We have deeply rooted historical relations with Turkey, said the PUK leader and added that Turkey's influence is being felt in the regional economy and politics. Erdogan voiced Talabani's dissatisfaction over the level of representation of Turkmen in the interim Iraqi government. Erdogan also reiterated that a federal Iraq based on ethnic grounds would be unacceptable for Turkey.

Armenia wants good relations with Turkey: Armenian President Robert Kocharian said at a Council of Europe meeting in Strasbourg on Wednesday that the EU must set for Turkey a condition for 'good neighborly relations with Armenia' before granting Ankara a date for entry talks. Armenians are ready to start meetings over cooperation without setting any conditions, Kocharian said. A dialogue with Azerbaijan is necessary without any mediation by a third country, the Armenian President stressed.

Government seeking ways to reopen Halki Seminary: Turkey will tell President Bush during his visit to Ankara that the Halki Seminary, which has been kept closed for 33 years, would be reopened soon, says "Milliyet." The Seminary will not be linked to the Higher Education Board (YOK) but will

be given a private college status under the control of the Ministry of Education. If the formula is worked out, the school will regain the status it had in 1971.

EDITORIAL OPINION:

"How Will Unity be Established?"
Sami Kohen opined in the mass appeal Milliyet (6/24): "It is not possible for a project with an undecided name to be discussed seriously at the NATO summit. However, this is not an obstacle for President Bush to bring this issue to the summit and present it in broader detail. This issue will be discussed at NATO, and the project will be called the 'Istanbul Cooperation Initiative.' Is NATO going to take on such a project? It is clear that France does not support the project. The Chirac administration is against NATO taking such responsibilities. The picture of a bridge on the NATO summit logo represents the alliance's connection with the world. However, first of all NATO needs to build a unity bridge within its own structure."

"A love that is worth war"
Fehmi Koru argued in the Islamist/opinion maker "Yeni Safak" (6/24): "Israel thinks it is insufficient to see an Iraq devoid of a significant military power in the region. Israel wants a satellite country under Israeli control. Such a result could not be achieved due to the deficiency of coalition forces, so Israel had to act on its own. Since the UN Security Council's latest resolution envisages the protection of Iraq's territorial integrity, Israel aims to break northern Iraq away from Baghdad. Oil-rich Kirkuk is a mere tool to wet the appetite of the Kurds. However, Ankara's stern attitude with regard to recent developments has disrupted that plan. It seems that the plan to establish a state on Turkey's borders with a certain resemblance to the Israeli state, which is ready to shed blood all over the region, has failed. We hope that Israel is reading correctly the message given by Ankara. The Washington power elite's love for Israel has caused great trouble for the US. If Israel's calculations are realized, that love is sure to cause even greater trouble for the world. Turkey is doing its best to contain the problem. The next step will be the responsibility of the American voters."

EDELMAN